



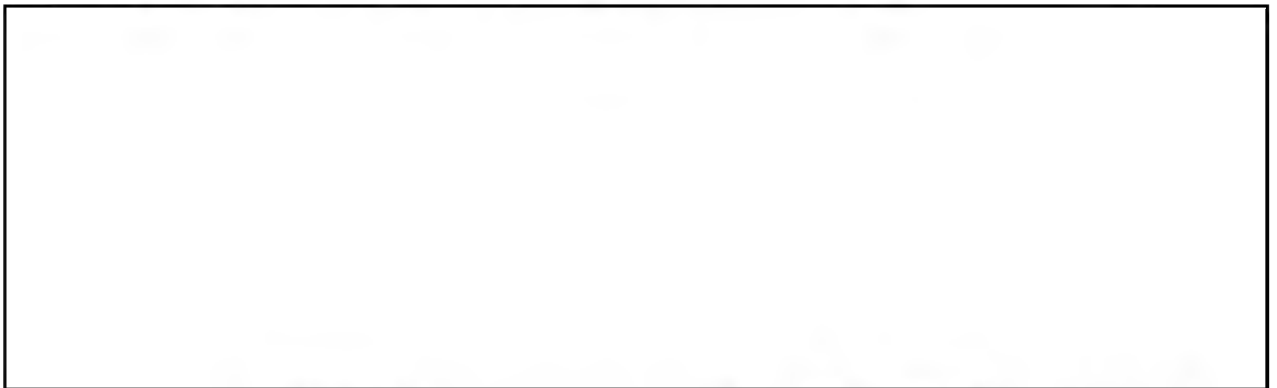
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Significant World Developments

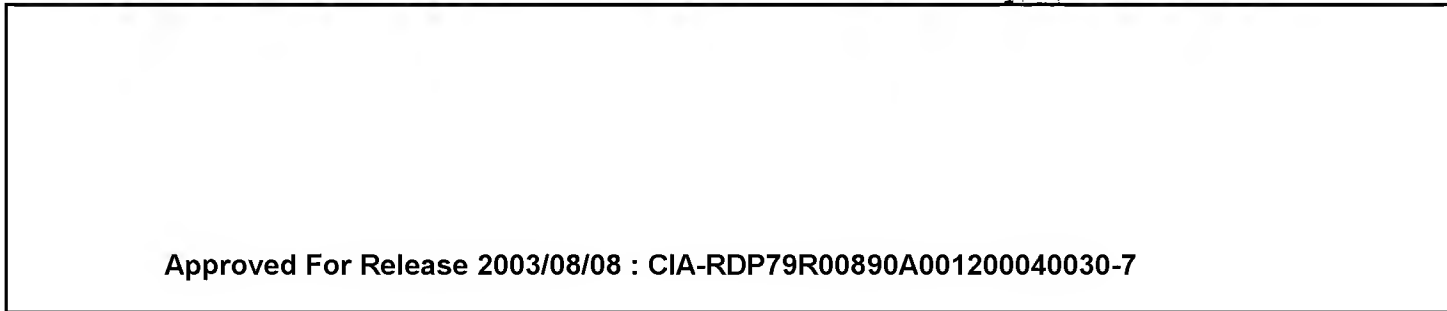
As I will not be able to brief you at this week's National Security Council meeting, I am using this memorandum to alert you to certain intelligence which I otherwise would have discussed at that time.

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B. Sino-Soviet differences: The USSR and Communist China are conducting--without ever referring to one another--what amounts to a ^{unique} public debate over: 1) the inevitability of war; 2) the peaceful intentions of the West; 3) the desirability of "peaceful coexistence." The Chinese apparently fear that present Soviet policies encourage a breakdown of revolutionary ardor in the Bloc and threaten

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permanent world acceptance of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.] We do not know to what extent the Chinese might be willing to move from argument to action in an effort to influence Khrushchev's moves at the Summit. In this connection, however, we are watching closely Communist military activity near the ^{Taiwan} Straits; [redacted]

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C. South Korea: The National Assembly has requested that President Rhee immediately resign as he had earlier offered and has called for new presidential elections. Rhee's resignation [probably will] place control in the hands of a caretaker government, ^{which} new being formed, ^{which appears to demand support of ROK armed forces} [Such a government will require military support.] The populace, encouraged by the successes of its mass action, probably will be easily aroused to take violent action again should there be any delay in carrying out reforms or if popular expectations are not satisfied. At present its mood is strongly favorable to the United States. *It is possible that the tide of successful Communist exploitation, though possible, is not yet at its peak.*

D. Turkey: A potentially explosive situation has been created by President Menderes' attempts to restrict the activity of the opposition, led by former President Inonu. Inonu has ordered his party to ignore a government decree of 18 April which banned all political activity for three months; serious incidents may ensue.

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E. Cuba: Increasingly complex domestic problems are impelling the Castro regime to make intensified use of the United States as a scapegoat. We expect a new peak on May Day, when Castro plans to stage mass demonstrations and parades of the army and the workers', peasants' and students' militia. A "meeting of democratic political and intellectual personalities" of the hemisphere is also planned for 29 April to 1 May in Havana.

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G. Laos: Conservative candidates have won their expected overwhelming victory in Sunday's National Assembly elections. However, the Communists may react to the rigging of the elections against them by an intensification of guerrilla warfare.

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H. Panama: During the period prior to the presidential election scheduled for 8 May, violence--directed either against the Canal Zone or the present de la Guardia government--may occur at any time. All three presidential candidates are committed to continuing pressure on the United States for additional benefits from the Canal.

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I. Sino-Indian dispute: In talks in New Delhi, both Nehru and Chou En-lai stood firmly on their previously declared positions. No agreement was reached and relations will remain strained, although both sides are apparently anxious to confine the dispute to the diplomatic level.

J. East Germany: The East German regime's campaign for complete farm collectivization may embarrass the USSR at the Summit in any effort to present East Germany as a sovereign state. Farmer opposition has increased the flow of refugees into West Berlin, to a level higher than at any time since 1956, demonstrating the Ulbricht regime's lack of a popular base.

K. Arab boycott: Picketing of an Egyptian ship in New York on an involved question related to the Arab-Israeli dispute will cause difficulties for American civil and military activities in the Middle East. The federation of Arab unions has announced that a full boycott of American ships and planes will go into effect on 29 April from Morocco to the Persian Gulf unless picketing is stopped. While the boycott may not be unanimous, it is likely to be widespread.

We are ready to provide any further detail you might

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